

February Meetings

Dates & Times:

Matinee, 2:30, Wednesday, February 14

Evenings, 8:00 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, February 14 and 15

Place:

May Treat Morrison Auditorium

Speaker:

A. Warren Larson

Subject:

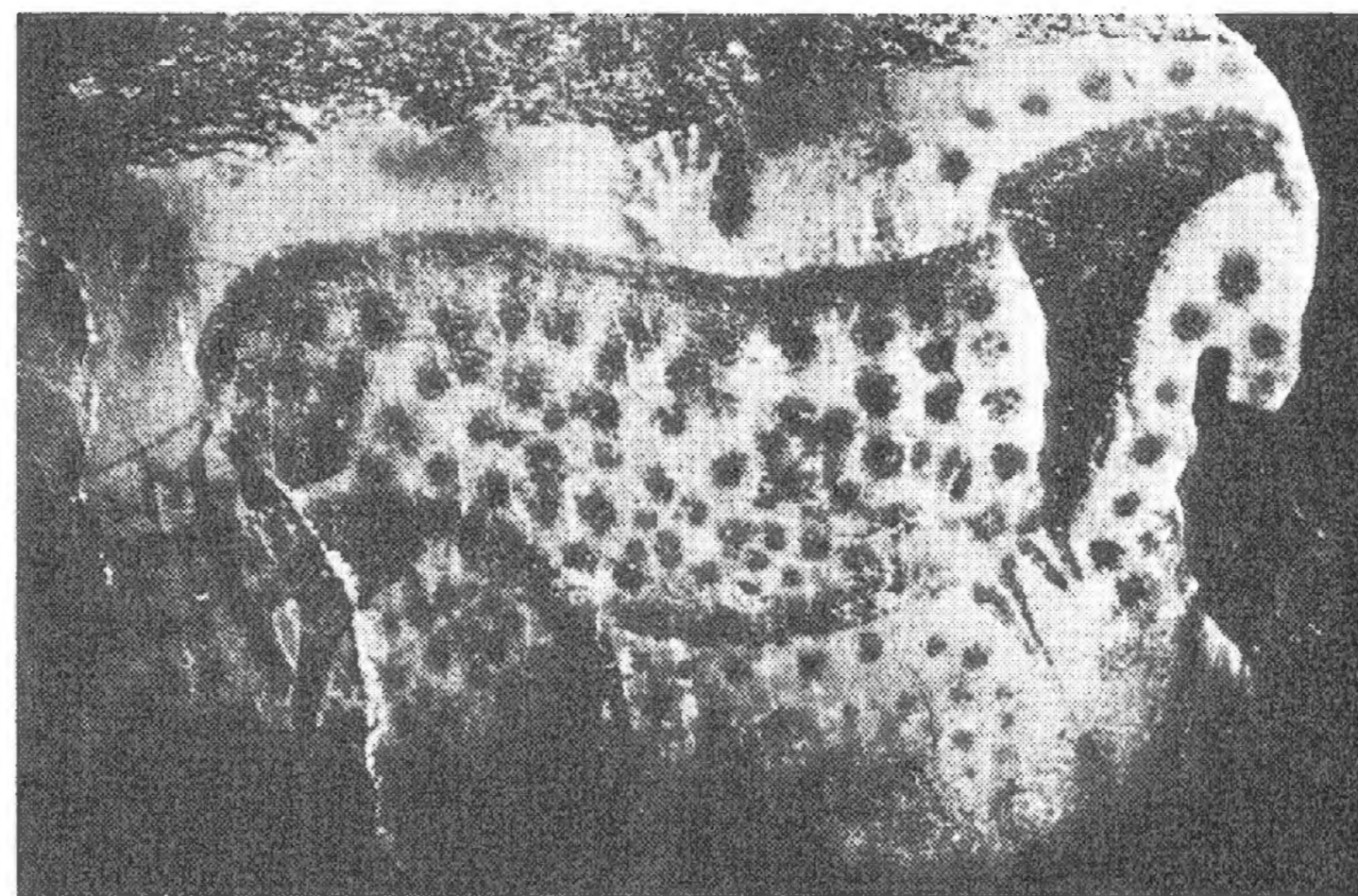
"Jeepers, Creepers!"

"Jeepers. Creepers!". one of many films by photographer/naturalist A. Warren Larson, offers an intimate look into the insect world and shows the complex ecological relationships of various species to Bay Area gardens, fields and forests. Featured creatures in this entertaining and educational film will give you new insight into your own backyard biology studies. Our February meetings will be of interest to young scientists, gardeners, campers and bug buffs in general.

Larson, a retired teacher of more than 35 years, has presented slide shows and films to many group organizations including the Audubon Society, American Ornithology Union at Berkeley, garden clubs and other institutions. Larson also served as a seasonal naturalist for the Department of Recreation, Beaches and Parks, spending six summers in coastal parks. He also spent a summer working at Lassen National Forest and one at Shoshone National Forest in Wyoming.

As usual, there will be three presentations of this monthly members' meetings. Please present your membership card at the main entrance to Cowell Hall for admission to the Academy. For the afternoon meeting you will be asked to present your card once more at the entrance to the auditorium. Bring the whole family to see "Jeepers, Creepers!"

Special Exhibits



Pech-Merle Horse

© Alexander Marshack

After a highly successful nine-month run at New York's American Museum of Natural History, **Ice Age Art**, the exhibition of the art and symbol of the last Ice Age in Europe and Asia opens February 17 and continues through August, 1979.

Ice Age Art, the first comprehensive exhibition of man's earliest art and symbol ever presented either in the U.S. or Europe, spans the Upper Paleolithic era from approximately 35,000 to 10,000 B.C. With over 200 works including sculptures and artifacts, photomurals of cave paintings, carving and engravings, the show sheds a new light on the culture and capacity of the earliest of Homo sapiens of Europe, Cro-Magnon man. Generally, our mental image of "cavemen" is one of uncouth, savage brutes, certainly not sensitive artists. But from the beautiful and sophisticated cave paintings discovered throughout Europe and Asia, and from the skilfully carved "Venus" figurines, plus many hitherto unknown symbol systems to be exhibited for the first time, it would seem that our view of Cro-Magnon man must be adjusted.

One of the highlights of the exhibit is a magnificent 26-foot painting depicting some of the lifelike bison on the famous Altamira cave ceiling in Spain, which has been called the "Ice Age Sistine Chapel" for its spectacular painted animal images. The painting will be suspended from the ceiling as it would appear to a visitor to Altamira.

Another featured exhibit on the art of Cro-Magnon man is the work of Douglas Mazonowicz, an artist with a mission. Using the silkscreen technique he has made accurate renderings in texture, size and color of prehistoric cave art and the Academy is pleased to offer a generous collection of his work in **The Hand of Man** on display in a new exhibit area in Cowell Hall.

The opening of **Ice Age Art** and **The Hand of Man** coincides with an international symposium entitled, "The Hand of Man: Origins of Art and Culture" sponsored by the Leakey Foundation to be held on February 17 and 18 at the Palace of Fine Arts. Academy members should have received a detailed brochure on this unique gathering of experts, but if you did not and would like information call 752-4642.

Members of the Academy will have an opportunity to hear more about Cro-Magnon man and the last ice age at the March meetings when Dr. Margaret Conkey will give a slide-illustrated lecture on the topic.

Man in Essence, an exhibition of photographs and art objects from aboriginal Irian by the late photographer Laurens Hillhouse, continues through March 31 in the Atholl McBean Gallery. The truly remarkable photographs, combined with the beautiful art and artifacts Hillhouse collected over the years in Irian, give you an intimate look at life in this remote region of West New Guinea. In this vast primordial swampland where animal life must be armored, camouflaged or cunning to survive, where the earth permanently remains in its infancy, incredibly, here people live.

The Farallon Islands, a stunning color photo exhibit by Tupper Ansel Blake, continues through the end of February in Hohfield Gallery I, just outside the auditorium. An exhibit featuring superb examples of ancient Peruvian weaving techniques, **Peruvian Textiles: A Weaver's Art**, is on view in the Patricia Price Peterson Gallery.

Morrison Planetarium

Living Arts

The Living Arts Program is proud to spotlight some of the Academy's exhibits and research departments this month and in March.

Saturday, February 3

1 to 3 pm

Fred Funk, Museum Taxidermist, and Kathy Sherfey, Botanical Exhibits Preparator, will show you some of their work-in-progress and give you a tour around the Wattis Hall exhibits to acquaint you with their many creations.

Saturday, February 24

1 to 3 pm

Raymond Bandar, Field Associate of the Ornithology and Mammalogy Department, will display a few items from the Academy's marine mammal collection and will describe how these specimens have been salvaged, prepared and used for research purposes.

Saturday, March 3

1 to 3 pm

Academy staff members of the Entomology Department will display specimens from the Academy's insect collection — the largest in the western region of North America! — and will describe how they are collected, prepared, and researched.

Saturday, March 10

1 to 3 pm

Tony James, Curatorial Assistant of the Ornithology and Mammalogy Department will show you some colorful specimens from the Academy's Mexican and North American bird collections and will describe their preparation and the uses various researchers have made of them.

Continuing through April 22 at the Morrison Planetarium is the daily sky show, **Planetary Odyssey**, a flight through our solar system. There is a world of perpetual night, a world bombarded with sulphuric acid rains and interminable clouds, and another planet whose core is hotter than the surface of the sun! Journey from the mysterious cliffs of the inferno-planet Mercury, out to the frozen wastelands of distant Pluto in **Planetary Odyssey**.

You can see **Planetary Odyssey** each Monday through Friday at 2 p.m. or on weekends at 12:30, 2 and 3:30. Evening shows are each Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30.

Inside the Academy

Laserium

Experience "The Best of Laserium," the cosmic laser light concert each Friday, Saturday and Sunday in the Morrison Planetarium where vivid color images are set dancing to music against a background of stars. Join the more than 6 million spectators who have seen Laserium each Friday at 7:30, 9 or 10:30; Saturday at 5, 7:30, 9 or 10:30; and Sunday at 5, 7:30 or 9 p.m. Advance tickets are available through all BASS outlets and remaining tickets go on sale at the planetarium box-office one-half hour before show time. Admission to all performances is \$3.25. Members are reminded that this is not a regular planetarium attraction nor are your membership passes usable for this attraction. Call 752-4264 for more information on "The Best of Laserium."



A large, brilliant amethyst geode (photo above), the generous gift from longtime Academy friends and benefactors Mr. and Mrs. Victor J. Bergeron, is now on display in Mineral Hall. The Academy gratefully received the magnificent specimen in September. It's from Southeastern Brazil. The geode is especially valuable because its dark amethyst crystals are of gem quality.

The giant geode weighs 465 pounds, and is but one of many gifts from the Bergerons on display at the California Academy of Sciences.

Education and Travel Notes

ECLIPSE WATCHERS UNITE!

On Monday, February 26, Americans and Canadians will witness the last total solar eclipse visible from North America until the year 2017. Join the thousands who have taken up eclipse chasing and prepare yourself for this exciting morning event by stopping by the Morrison Planetarium for a slide-illustrated lecture on eclipses, to be held at 12 and 2:30 p.m. Saturday, February 10 with Lee Simon, and at 12 noon Saturday, February 24 with Bing Quock, in the Morrison Auditorium. The lecturers, both members of the Planetarium staff, will talk about what an eclipse is, how to view one and where to go to see this eclipse. A question and answer period will follow.

Also on the agenda is a free special eclipse show at 3:30 p.m., Monday, February 26, the big day, in the Morrison Planetarium!

Cold-blooded Vertebrates: Their Care and Maintenance

February 20-April 10 (eight Tuesdays)
7:00-9:30 p.m.

For those wishing to set-up an aquarium or terrarium of their own, this course will examine the types of equipment available to the hobbyist as well as their use for the essential purpose of proper environmental control. We will learn how to develop and provide the necessary habitat, including different foods and feeding requirements. Also, basic information will be given for disease diagnosis and treatment of fishes, reptiles and amphibians. Special emphasis will be given to the needs of freshwater and marine fishes and invertebrates. Taught by Al Castro, Aquarist for the Steinhart Aquarium. \$30 members, \$40 non-members.

Elephant Seals at Ano Nuevo Point

Thursday, February 22

Three groups of 20 each can be accommodated on the ranger-led Ano Nuevo Point hike to see and learn about the famous elephant seals in residence there. We'll leave the Academy by chartered bus at 11:30 a.m., returning at about 5:00 p.m. It is a good hike of about three miles round trip, through sand (or mud, if it rains), so come prepared. \$9 per person, members only. Advance reservations required.

Bodega Bay and Birds

Saturday, February 24

Another of our popular annual trips, planned as a one-day visit to Bodega Bay to observe the great variety and populations of migrating and over-wintering water-fowl. Birding experience is not necessary, there is enjoyment for everyone! Dr. John Arnold will be resident-expert and guide. We'll leave from the Academy at 8 a.m. and return in the late afternoon. \$15 members, \$20 non-members.

Travel Photography

February 26-April 2 (six Mondays)
7:00-9:30 p.m.

This course emphasizes the practical techniques and special problems encountered while traveling with a camera. We will deal with a host of practical issues ranging from trip preparation, insurance, equipment selection and customs regulations to editing results when you return home. Each session is accompanied by a slide presentation from a different area of the world with discussion of camera technique and visual possibilities inherent in new and strange environments. Taught by Monte Hartman. Members \$30, non-members \$40.

Exploring the Universe

March 6 — May 8

10 Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

A repeat of this popular introductory course in astronomy to survey our solar system and beyond. We will study such phenomena as pulsars, black holes, galaxies, quasars, UFO's and the search for extraterrestrial life. Several sessions will be held in the Morrison Planetarium Sky Theater and there will be one field trip to a local observatory. Taught by Dr. Lee Simon, Director of the Morrison Planetarium. \$30 for individuals; \$45 for families (non members add \$10).

Basic Techniques in Nature Drawing: Emphasis on Form and Color

March 15-May 31 (twelve Thursdays)
7:00-10:00 p.m.

By popular demand we are repeating this course by Grant Schar, art instructor at

S.F. City College. Little or no experience in drawing is required. Our objective will be to develop within the student a sensitivity to form and contour in the observed natural world with special emphasis on the discipline of color and draftsmanship. \$55 members, \$65 non-members.

Hawaiian Islands

March 16-25

Volcanoes, humpback whales and tropical vegetation are study topics that are intermingled in a fascinating 10-day tour of Kauai, Hawaii, and Maui. This Hawaiian adventure will be led by geologist, Charles Chesterman and the cost is \$650, plus airfare. For information call Nature Expeditions International at (415) 328-6572.

Guatemala & Honduras

March 31-April 19

The emphasis of this fascinating trip will be on the natural history, native culture and Mayan sites of Guatemala and Honduras. The tour will be led, for the third time, by Dr. and Mrs. Robert T. Orr. Added to this itinerary will be a visit to Copan in Honduras, one of the oldest sites of Mayan civilization. Approximate cost, \$2200. For information call Gulliver's Travel at (415) 346-4400.

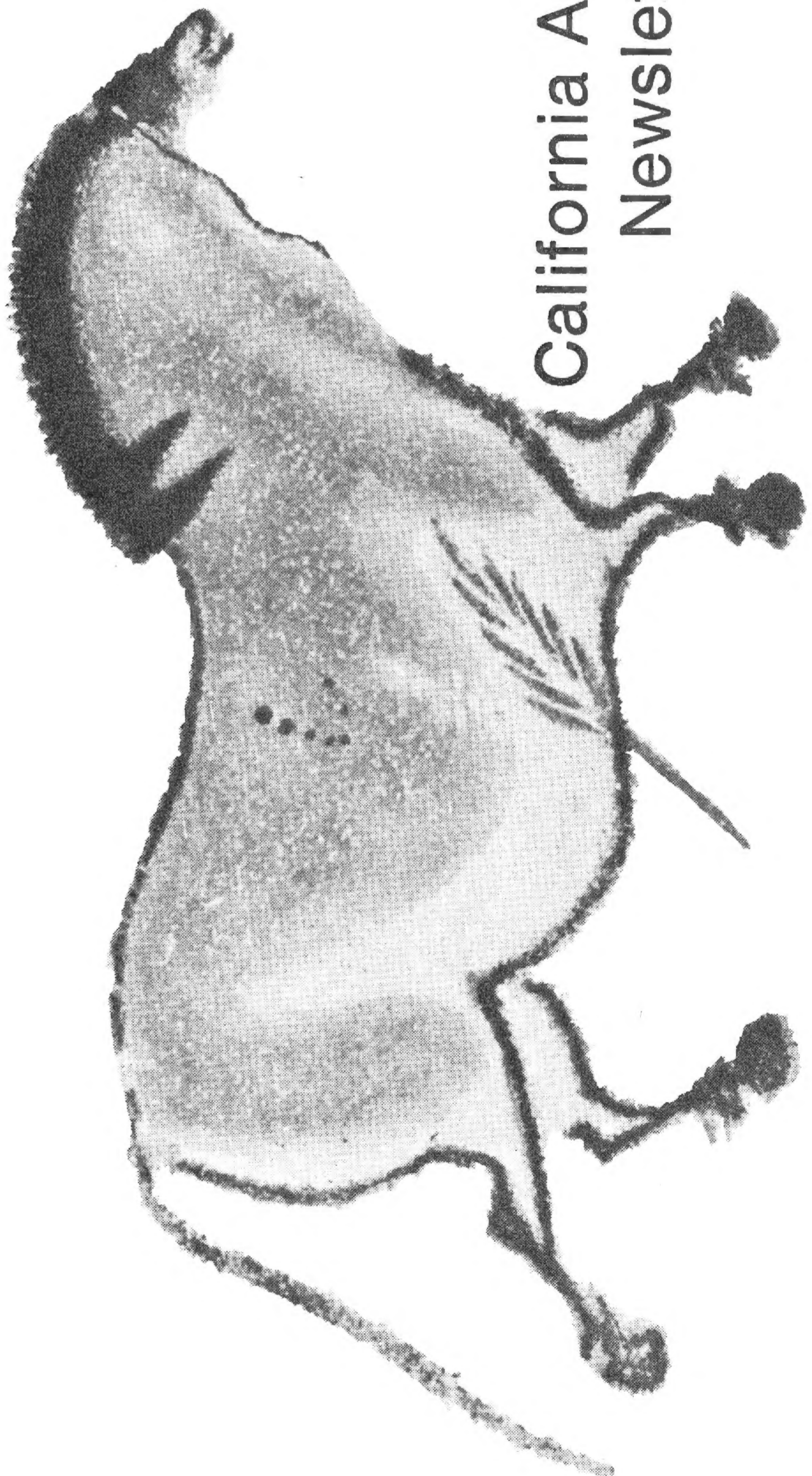
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